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SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 12 May 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 11 May 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Economic and Social Council under item 14 (g) of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Tuluy TANÇ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 11 May 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the written statement submitted by a "non-governmental organization" bearing the name "Society for Threatened Peoples" at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva on 31 March 1998 (E/CN.4/1998/NGO/103 of 31 March 1998). This written statement reflects Greek Cypriot allegations aimed at misrepresenting the nature of the Cyprus question. I have, therefore, deemed it necessary to set the record straight by presenting the realities of the issue.

At the root of the Cyprus question lies the systematic violation of the human rights of the Turkish Cypriot people by the Greek Cypriots, during the period of 21 December 1963 to 20 July 1974.

On 21 December 1963, the Greek Cypriots, acting on the basis of a well prepared plan (the full text of the Akritas Plan has been published as United Nations document A/33/115-S/12722 of 30 May 1978) attacked the Turkish Cypriots all over the island. The Greek Cypriots destroyed the bi-national partnership Republic of Cyprus created in 1960 under the London and Zurich Agreements, and, usurping the powers of the State, tried to convert Cyprus, unconstitutionally, into a Greek Cypriot State and to achieve union with Greece (Enosis). The Turkish Cypriots, having been expelled by force of arms from all organs of the State, were forced to live under a "veritable siege" (see the report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the Security Council contained in document S/5950 of 10 September 1964, para. 222) and subjected to a war of attrition. This illegal state of affairs continued until 20 July 1974, when the Turkish intervention, undertaken in discharge of the obligation and right emanating from the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, prevented the annexation of the island by Greece and also put an end to the violation of the human rights of the Turkish Cypriots that had been going on systematically for over eleven years. The reports of the United Nations Secretary-General, of the international press and of impartial observers during that period bear clear testimony to a systematic campaign of "ethnic cleansing" carried out by the Greek Cypriots, with the support of Greece, against the Turkish Cypriot people.

The practical consequences of the events of 1963-1974 have been the emergence of parallel administrative, judicial and legislative organs for each of the two peoples. The institutional organization of the Turkish Cypriot people developed through various stages and culminated in 1983 in the proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The Turkish Cypriot people have formed a democratic and secular State, with a plural system based on free elections, social justice and the rule of law, with its citizens enjoying all human rights and liberties. In spite of this, however, due to the illegal and inhuman embargoes perpetrated by the Greek Cypriot administration against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the international field, the Turkish Cypriots are denied the full exercise of their

basic rights. Their right to freely travel abroad, to trade, to communicate, to compete in sports or to take part in cultural activities, not to mention their right to be represented at or be heard in all international forums, are all being denied.

Against this background, the prospects for reaching a fair, balanced and peaceful accommodation between the two sides in the island have not improved over the years. Throughout the process of negotiations, the Greek Cypriot side has demonstrated very clearly that it lacks the necessary goodwill and commitment in pursuing a peaceful settlement based on the existing realities on the island.

On the contrary, within the context of the so-called "Joint Military Doctrine" with Greece, the Greek Cypriot side is continuing to build up its arms and armed forces by spending in the order of 2 million dollars a day on sophisticated arms and equipment. The Greek Cypriot side's purchase of the sophisticated S-300 missile system from Russia, in contravention of successive United Nations Security Council resolutions, and its construction of air and naval bases for use by the Greek Armed Forces have raised tension on the island. The Greek Cypriot administration is also forwarding its application for full membership of the European Union, which is based on the illegal claim that it can unilaterally determine the future of the entire island and create international obligations on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people as well.

Perpetuating the fallacy of treating the illegal Greek Cypriot regime as the legitimate government can only block the way to a peaceful settlement between the two sides. The prospects for a settlement can only be enhanced if it is acknowledged that there are two separate sovereign peoples and States on the island. The international community can help bring this about by according the two sides equal treatment in all spheres.

I shall be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Economic and Social Council under item 14 (g) of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus